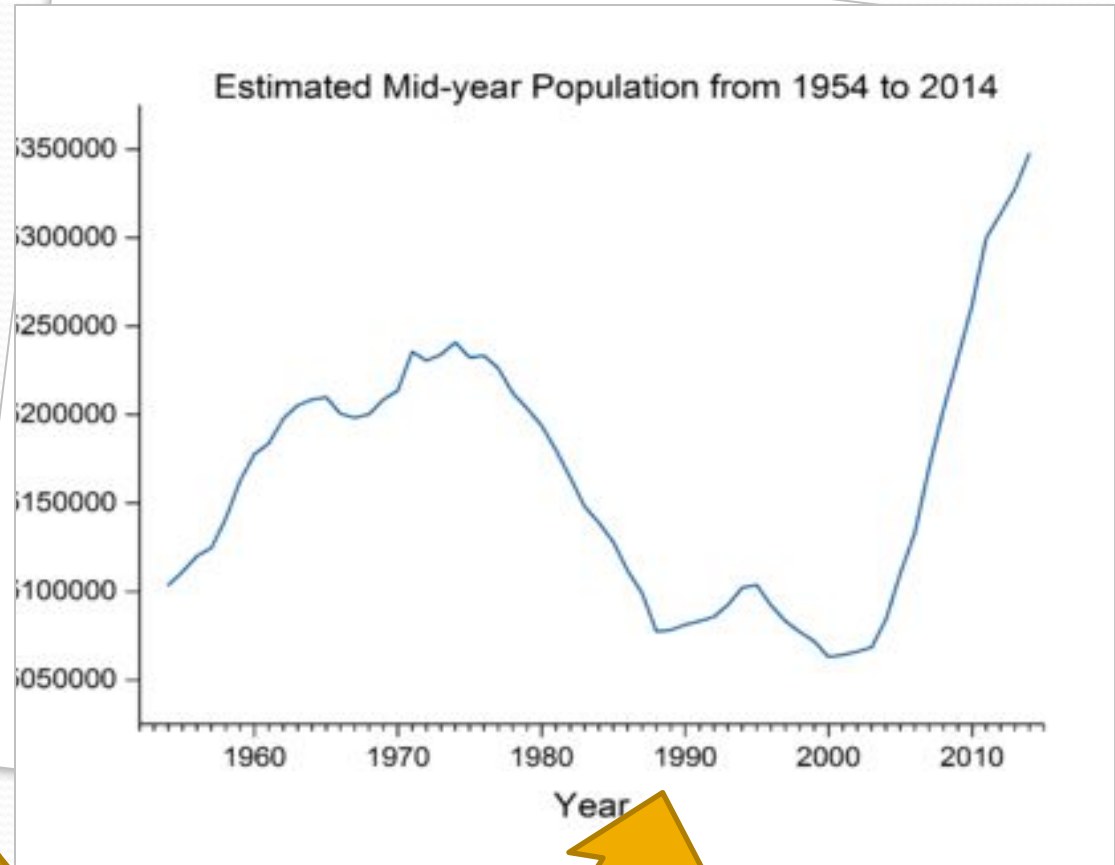


Demographics

The population of Scotland at the 2001 Census was 5,062,011. This rose to 5,295,400, the highest ever, at the 2011 Census. The most recent ONS estimate, for mid-2014, was 5,424,800.

Scotland has three officially recognised languages: English, Scots, and Scottish Gaelic.



In the 2011 Census, 62% of Scotland's population stated their [national identity](#) as '[Scottish](#) only', 18% as 'Scottish and British', 8% as 'British only', and 4% chose 'other identity only'.

Although Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland, the largest city is Glasgow, which has just over 584,000 inhabitants. The [Greater Glasgow](#) conurbation, with a population of almost 1.2 million, is home to nearly a quarter of Scotland's population.

In August 2012, the Scottish population reached an all-time high of 5.25 million people. The reasons given were that, in Scotland, births were outnumbering the number of deaths, and immigrants were moving to Scotland from overseas. In 2011, 43,700 people moved from Wales, Northern Ireland or England to live in Scotland.

The [total fertility rate](#) in Scotland is below the replacement rate of 2.1. The majority of births are to unmarried women. Life expectancy for those born in Scotland between 2012 and 2014 is 77.1 years for males and 81.1 years for females. This is the lowest of any of the four countries of the UK.

Scottish population by ethnic group

	% of total Popula tion	Population
White Total	96.0	5,084,407
Asian	2.7	140,678
African	0.6	29,638
Caribbe an or Black	0.1	6,540
Other ethnic group	0.3	14,325

Geography and natural history

Scotland is a country that is [part](#) of the [United Kingdom](#) and covers the northern third of the island of [Great Britain](#).^{[16][17][18]} It shares [a border](#) with [England](#) to the south, and is otherwise surrounded by the [Atlantic Ocean](#), with the [North Sea](#) to the east and the [North Channel](#) and [Irish Sea](#) to the south-west. In addition to the mainland, the country has more than 790 islands,^[19] including the [Northern Isles](#) and the [Hebrides](#).

The mainland of Scotland comprises the northern third of the land mass of the island of Great Britain, which lies off the north-west coast of [Continental Europe](#). The total area is 78,772 km²



Scotland's highest point is the summit of [Ben Nevis](#), in [Lochaber](#), while Scotland's longest river, the [River Tay](#), flows for a distance of 190 kilometres

Climate

The climate of Scotland is [temperate](#) and [oceanic](#), and tends to be very changeable. As it is warmed by the [Gulf Stream](#) from the Atlantic, it has much milder winters (but cooler, wetter summers) than areas on similar latitudes, such as [Labrador](#), southern [Scandinavia](#). The west of Scotland is usually warmer than the east, owing to the influence of Atlantic [ocean currents](#) and the colder surface temperatures of the [North Sea](#). [Tiree](#), in the Inner Hebrides, is one of the sunniest places in the country.

Scotland is the windiest country in Europe due to eastward moving Atlantic depressions that bring strong winds and clouds continuously throughout the year.



Religion

Just over half (54%) of the Scottish population reported being a Christian while nearly 37% reported not having a religion in a 2011 census. Scotland also has a significant [Roman Catholic](#) population, 19% professing that faith, particularly in Greater Glasgow and the north-west. Islam is the largest non-Christian religion (estimated at around 75,000, which is about 1.4% of the population), [\[202\]](#)[\[207\]](#) and there are also significant [Jewish](#), [Hindu](#) and [Sikh](#) communities, especially in Glasgow.



Scottish Government

- **Gaelic**: Riaghaltas na h-Alba
Scots: Scots Govrenment
- **Established** 1 July 1999; 19 years ago
- **Leader** First Minister
- **Appointed by** First Minister approved by Parliament, ceremonially appointed by the Head of State
- **Main organ** Scottish Cabinet
- **Responsible to** Parliament
- **Annual budget** £40.3 billion (2018/19)
- **Headquarters** St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Currency

Although the Bank of England is the central bank for the UK, three Scottish clearing banks issue Sterling banknote s: the Bank of Scotland, the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Clydesdale Bank.

